

Serial No.: 09/844,288

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559/408001/P10345

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 were pending prior to amendment. Please add claims 34-42. New claims 34-42 are supported in the specification; for example at page 5, lines 3-8, page 9, lines 16-27, and page 13, lines 5-6. Claims 1-33 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,233,559 to Balakrishnan ("Balakrishnan") in view of one or more of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,473 to Scott et al. ("Scott"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,532,444 to Weber ("Weber").

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to further emphasize patentable features of the disclosure.

Claim 1 is patentable over the references at least because the references neither teach or suggest "a speech service separate from the speech engine, wherein the speech service includes instructions to communicate with a plurality of application programming interfaces including the first application programming interface," as recited in claim 1.

Such a feature allows for more flexibility, since "the speech service 24 allows a single version of a speech-enabled application 26, 28 to be used with any speech API that is

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supported by the speech service 24." (Please see page 3, lines 21-24 of the specification).

Scott, Balakrishnan, and Weber fail to provide a speech service separate from the speech engine, where the speech service includes instructions to communicate with a plurality of application programming interfaces. Instead, Balakrishnan in FIG. 4 shows a single speech application programming interface 102 between a search engine 104 and applications 32 and 34. Similarly, Weber in FIG. 2 shows an application interface 220, and notes that application interface 220 "may use the Speech Application Programming Interface (SAPI) standard by Microsoft to communicate with an external application." (Please see column 3, lines 20-23 of Weber).

Since neither Scott, Balakrishnan, or Weber teaches or suggests this feature, claim 1 is patentable over the references, alone or in combination.

Claims 2-11 and 34-36

Claims 2-11 and 34-36 depend from claim 1, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as outlined above with respect to claim 1.

New claims 34-36

New claims 34-36 emphasize additional patentable features of the current specification. For example, claim 34 recites that the method of claim 1 includes "prior to receiving the

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information about the recognized phrase from the speech engine, determining whether a speech handler file including a first set of handling information associated with the first application is embedded within an executable of the first application," while claim 35 recites "if the first set of handling information associated with the first application is not embedded within the executable of the first application, determining whether the speech handler file including the first set of handling information associated with the first application is stored within the same directory as the executable of the first application." Neither Scott, Balakrishnan, or Weber teach or suggest the above features.

In an exemplary embodiment described on page 9, line 16 to page 10, line 4, the speech service determines the location of the speech handler information with respect to the executable of the application, prior to receiving information about a recognized phrase from the speech engine. If the location cannot be determined, the process is terminated.

Claim 36 recites that the instructions to communicate with a plurality of application programming interfaces includes instructions for communicating with each of a SAPI application programming interface and a JSAPI application programming interface (emphasis added). Neither Scott, Balakrishnan, or Weber teaches such a feature.

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Claims 12-33 and 37-42

Independent claims 12 and 22 have been amended to include features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and are thus patentable for at least similar reasons. Dependent claims 13-21, 23-33, and 37-42 depend from the above independent claims and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons. Additionally, claims 37-42 include features similar to those discussed above with respect to claims 34-36.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue, or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Claims 1-42 are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any

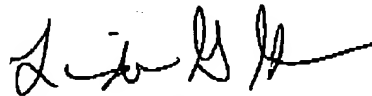
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questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (858) 678-4311.

Please apply \$570.00 for the one month extension fee, excess claim fee and any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 03/23/05

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